

Questions on the Text - How to Annoy Your Teacher

The following 25 time-tested methods of irritating your teacher and persuading him to deduct (abziehen) points and lower your grade will surely work for you, too.

1. Do not read all the questions before you start working. Quickly scan the text and then start immediately with the one you like best.
2. Do not give any clues of identification, like e.g. the question number.
3. Teachers just love repetitions, that is why you should repeat yourself as often as possible (“As I have already said before ...”).
4. Do not leave any blank lines between the different answers. Your whole test should be one long block of text; like this you will save a lot of paper and help the forests.
5. Try to make as many insertions (Ergänzung) as possible. Do not mark your insertion so that your teacher experiences a happy surprise when he suddenly discovers something on the last page that belongs to your first answer.
6. Never put insertions to an answer close to the answer itself. In general your answer should consist of two sentences, the insertion should be at least three sentences and there should be at least one page in between; if necessary you may add something to an insertion on the very last page.
7. Mark all your insertion with an asterisk*. Do not use any clear marks like superscript numbers, they would spoil the fun of working out which insertion belongs to which answer.
8. Do not answer the different parts of a question in the given order. Always start with the last one, write one sentence concerning the first one and then continue with the last again.
9. Save paper and write across the margins. Your teacher will be happy that he will not have to write too many comments.
10. Write illegibly. If you cannot, your handwriting should be as tiny as possible. Practice this at the bottom of each page.
11. If you are not sure how to spell a word, simply write your second version over the first one. This method is especially efficient with vowels. Your teacher just loves to find out whether it is supposed to be an a, an o or maybe a u.

12. Do not stick to the point. Do not even say what the point is. Just waffle on (schwafeln) about anything that comes to your mind.
13. Do not reveal the source of any of your conclusions, interpretations etc. Never ever give any line numbers, they would spoil the teacher's fun to search for the passage you might refer to.
14. Do not use any quotation marks. Let the teacher find out himself whether you used your own words or not.
15. If a quotation does not fit into your sentence, simply change it. If necessary just leave out unnecessary words like not.
16. Do not begin a new paragraph for a new aspect, argument etc. It is so much more entertaining for the teacher to work that out himself.
17. Under no circumstances indent the first line of a new paragraph. Make sure that the last line of the previous paragraph goes to the very right margin so that everything is neatly packed into one big paragraph.
18. Do not provide connectives and signal words. Simply connect all your sentences with And.
19. Include plenty of hackneyed (abgedroschen) phrases and avoid any alternatives to good and bad.
20. Either run sentences together without full stops or write sentence fragments or alternate the two forms. Alternatively just write a bulleted list or keywords. The teacher will appreciate your efficiency.
21. Keep changing between present and past tense, even within the same sentence.
22. Make sure your pronouns do not refer to anything or anyone in particular.
23. Sprinkle (verteilen) dots everywhere. Full stops simply look good and activate the reader. As an alternative you could leave out all punctuation marks.
24. Do not do any revising or proofreading. This would surely raise your grade.
25. Never ever use your OALD or LDOCE! When you come across an unknown word, just look out of the window and guess its meaning. When you are not sure how to use a word, stare at the ceiling and speculate. As you know there are a lot of similarities between English and German, so simply take the German word and make it English: bekommen = become, bewahren = beware etc.